

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 527  
By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to urge the Tennessee Oilers to abide by their agreement with the Memphis/Shelby County Sports Authority to play their home games in the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium for the 1998 season.

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Oilers expressed a strong desire for an early escape from Houston; without a stadium in place in Nashville until 1999, however, Tennesseans were unsure where their new professional football team would play; and

WHEREAS, Memphis and Shelby County agreed to permit the Oilers to use the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium for two years until their new stadium in Nashville was in place if they decided to leave Houston early; and

WHEREAS, Memphians were delighted to host the state's first NFL franchise, even if only for a two-year stretch; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis/Shelby County Sports Authority engaged in an arrangement with the Oilers to have the team play their home games in the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium during 1997 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, residents and members of the business community are sure the Oilers' stay in Memphis will help to create a West Tennessee following for our state's first and only NFL team; and

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WHEREAS, in recent weeks, Oilers' fans and Middle Tennessee officials have circulated a petition asking the Tennessee Oilers to move their team to Murfreesboro to play their home games in Middle Tennessee State University's Johnny Red Floyd Stadium during the 1998 football season; and

WHEREAS, the signatories plan to present their petition to the Oilers on April 16, 1998; and

WHEREAS, with the recent discussion of bringing the Oilers to Middle Tennessee for the 1998 season, it is important to remember that the team is under agreement to play in Memphis at the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium for one more year; and

WHEREAS, as the elected representatives of the state, we urge the Tennessee Oilers to remain true to their commitment to the people of Memphis and Shelby County and encourage them to abide by the arrangements set forth in the agreement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby urge the Tennessee Oilers to fulfill their commitment to play in the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium for the 1998 season, the last year remaining in the commitment made between the team and the Memphis/Shelby County Sports Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Bud Adams, owner of the Tennessee Oilers, with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.